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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 512  
By Herron

A RESOLUTION to express support for the designation of State Route 22 from Martin to Union City and the Tyson Bypass in Union City as an interstate highway link to Interstate 69.

WHEREAS, the United States Congress, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and the Tennessee Department of Transportation are in the process of designating a route for Interstate 69 through West Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Interstate 69 has been approved to follow the corridor of U.S. Highway 51, through Obion and Dyer counties; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee State Route 22 is constructed as an interstate-grade freeway from Martin to Union City to the interchange of that highway with State Route 431 at the Everett-Stewart Airport interchange; and

WHEREAS, the nearing completion of the "Tyson Bypass" in Union City will provide a freeway link from State Route 22, at the Everett-Stewart Airport interchange, to U.S. Highway 51, thus providing a continuous freeway link from Weakley County to the corridor mandated for the location of Interstate 69; and

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WHEREAS, such a designation of existing highway will require no construction of new highway miles, as State Route 22 and the Tyson Bypass are already engineered as interstate-grade highways; and

WHEREAS, such a designation would provide Everett-Stewart Airport, a facility shared by Weakley and Obion counties and a part of the federal transportation system, with a federal highway link; and

WHEREAS, the University of Tennessee at Martin is the State of Tennessee's higher education institution for Northwest Tennessee, and a federal interstate highway link to Martin would be in the best interests of that institution and Northwest Tennessee residents; and

WHEREAS, Weakley County is presently without a designated highway on the federal interstate system and is served by only one federal route, U.S. Highway 45E, which is a north-south corridor; the designation of State Route 22 and the Tyson Bypass as "I-69" would provide the county with an east-to-west federal highway corridor; and

WHEREAS, the designation of State Route 22 from Martin to Union City and the designation of the "Tyson Bypass" from State Route 22 to U.S. Highway 51 an interstate highway link would be in the best interests of the welfare and economic prosperity of all Weakley County residents; and

WHEREAS, Weakley County is now part of the Delta Regional Authority, an area federally designated as being economically challenged and is, therefore, in need of innovative approaches to economic development; and

WHEREAS, the following Weakley County entities have already passed formal resolutions of support for this well conceived proposal: Weakley County Commission, Weakley County Chamber of Commerce, Weakley County Joint Economic and Community Development Board, Martin Board of Mayor and Aldermen, Martin Economic Development Corporation, Martin Industrial Development Board, and the University of Tennessee at Martin Regional Advancement Council; and

WHEREAS, the "I-169" proposal is garnering similarly enthusiastic backing in Obion County, and thus a broad-based and unanimous level of support is being achieved throughout the Region; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That in furtherance of economic and community development and the future of the City of Martin, Weakley County and the surrounding Region, this General Assembly hereby expresses its unqualified support for the designation of State Route 22 from Martin to Union City and the "Tyson Bypass" in Union City as an interstate highway link to Interstate 69.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this General Assembly likewise supports the I-69 project through West Tennessee and the proposed re-designation of existing highways as a means to provide economic development for the City of Martin, Weakley County and the surrounding Region by establishing a link or spur to I-69, with the understanding that such designation would be a three-digit federal interstate highway number, tentatively referred to as "Interstate 169".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the following persons: the Honorable Don Sundquist, Governor of Tennessee; the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Transportation; the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation; the Federal Highway Administrator; and to each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation.